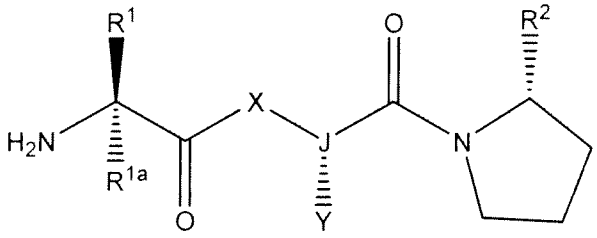
AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I:



I

wherein:

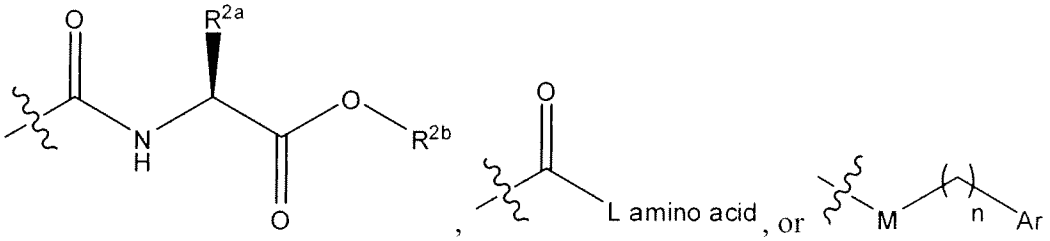
R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, or ethenyl;

R^{1a} is H or methyl;

X is -O-, -S-, CH_2-, or -NH-, and J is -CH-or -N-, provided that when J is -N-, X is -CH_2- or -NH-;

Y is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, or isopropyl;

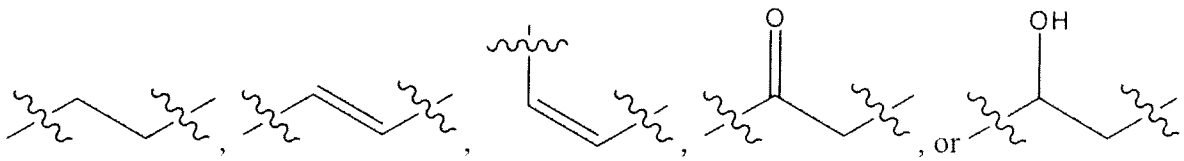
R^2 is:



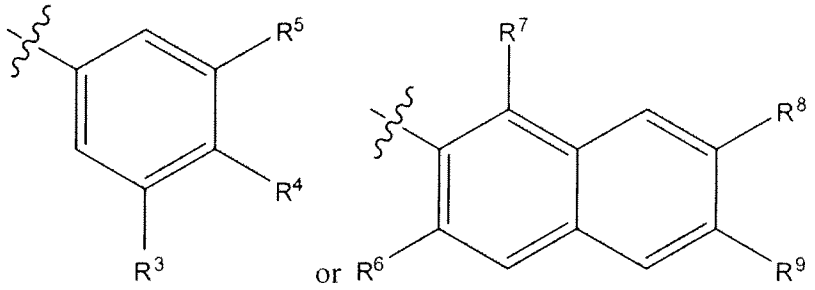
R^{2a} is aryl, cycloalkyl optionally substituted aralkyl, or cycloalkylalkyl;

R^{2b} is H or alkyl;

M is:



Ar is:



R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, and R^9 are each independently H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl halo, cyano, $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)OH$, $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)O$-alkyl, $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)NH_2$;

n and p are each independently the integer 0, 1, 2, or 3, and the sum of (n+p) is the integer 2 or 3;

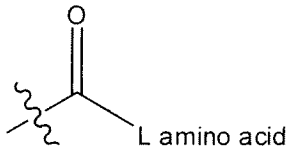
provided that at least one of R^3, R^4, and R^5, or at least two of R^6, R^7, R^8, and R^9 are each independently H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, halo, or cyano;

provided that when one or more of R^3 and R^5 is isopropyl, R^4 is other than isopropyl;

provided that when R^4 is isopropyl, R^3 and R^5 are each independently other than isopropyl;

provided that when R^8 is isopropyl, R^9 is other than isopropyl; and

provided that when R^{1a} is H, X is -NH-, J is -CH-, Y is H, methyl or isopropyl, and R^2 is:



R^1 is ~~ethenyl~~ methyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

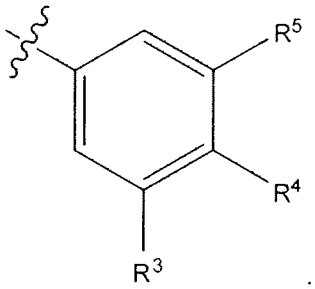
2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula L wherein R^1 is methyl.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula I, wherein R^{1a} is H.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula L wherein Y is H, methyl, or isopropyl.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 4, of formula I, wherein Y is isopropyl.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula I, wherein Ar is:



7. (original) A compound according to claim 6, of formula L, wherein one of R^3, R^4, and R^5 is $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)OH$, $-CH_2)_p-C(=O)O$-alkyl, $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)NH_2$.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 7, of formula I, wherein p is the integer 0.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 7, of formula I, wherein one of R^3, R^4, and R^5 is $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)OH$ or $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)O$-alkyl.

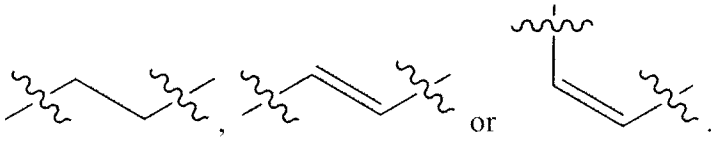
10. (original) A compound according to claim 9, of formula L wherein p is the integer 0.

11. (original) A compound according to claim 9, of formula I, wherein one of R^3, R^4, and R^5 is $-(CH_2)_p-C(=O)OH$.

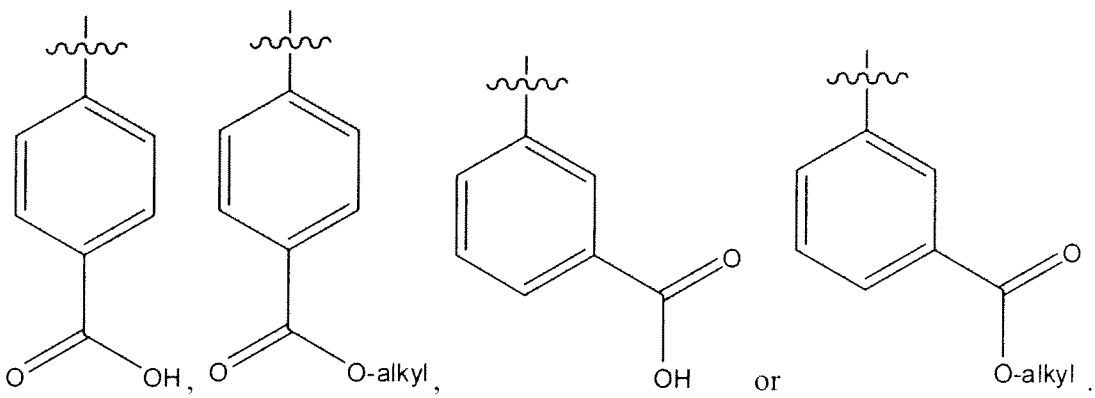
12. (original) A compound according to claim 11, of formula L wherein p is the integer 0.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula L wherein the sum of (n+p) is the integer 2.

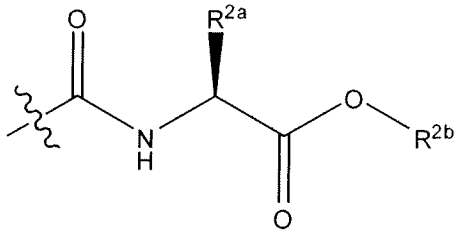
14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula I, wherein M is:



15. (original) A compound according to claim 1, of formula I, wherein Ar is:



16. (original) A compound according to claim 1 of formula I wherein R^2 is:



17. (original) A compound according to claim 16, of formula I, wherein R^{2a} is optionally substituted aralkyl.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 16, of formula L wherein R^{2a} is phenyl, cyclohexyl, alpha-naphthylmethyl, beta-naphthylmethyl, benzyl, phenylethyl, or cyclohexylmethyl.

19. (original) A compound according to claim 17, of formula L wherein R^{2a} is optionally substituted benzyl.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 19, of formula I, wherein said benzyl is substituted with one or more alkyl, halo, aryl, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, or aroyl, or combinations thereof.

21.-43. (canceled)

44. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1.

45. (canceled)

46. (original) A diagnostic or assay agent comprising a detectable form of the compound of claim 1.

47. (canceled)